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**CITY OF STAMFORD**  
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March 13, 2009

To: Senator Jonathan Harris  
Representative Elizabeth B. Ritter  
Public Health Committee Members

As Director of Health and Social Services for the City of Stamford, I request your support to pass HB 5630. An Act Concerning the Establishment of Licensure for an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner.

The public health dental hygienists' in our health department work in our schools to eliminate any barriers to access dental care. Children are followed from screenings to prophys (cleanings) to restorative care as needed. When our students are referred for restorative treatment, often there are waiting times of three months or better. Having the ability to have this advanced practitioner would create better transitions to care. An advanced practitioner would benefit many of our students.

Advanced practitioners will also benefit Public Health facilities to provide more comprehensive care to patients who because of cost constraints are unable to access private dental care. The educational preparation for this advanced practitioner's license is proof of the hygienist's professional commitment.

Our Public Health Dental Hygienists provide care to children who would otherwise not have access to dental care. I believe the ADHP will extend services to currently underserved populations much like the APRN does for the medical profession.

Thank you for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnnie A. Lee".

Johnnie A. Lee, MD, MPH, FACP  
Director of Health & Social Services  
City of Stamford